Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

93-6

ACCIDENT TYPE:

No Lost Time Case

INJURY:

Electric Shock

TYPE OF WORK:

Scaffold Rigger

EQUIPMENT:

Sky Climber Suspended Scaffolding

SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Safety Shoes, Hard Hat, Harness, and Lanyard

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Two contractor employees were working from a sky climber suspended scaffold while painting metal window frames on the inside of large equipment bag. Work progress required relocating the sky climber to the other side of a 50 ton gantry crane support beam. While moving the scaffold, a dangling metal rope the employee was handling, made contact with the exposed energized, 440 volt bus bar.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Crane which had been tagged out was re-energized without notifying all effected personnel
- Contractor did not verify bus bar was still de-energized and locked/tagged out prior to moving the scaffold

CONTRIBUTING CAUSE:

- Contractor did not institute his own lockout/tagout procedures and program
- Contractor work was not considered in the building lockout/tagout program. The building manager failed to inform the contractor that the bus bars had been reenergized

LESSONS LEARNED:

- All personnel working on or around equipment or systems with exposed electrical conductors need to be involved in the lockout/tagout procedures
- Communication of the lockout status during all phases of the lockout/tagout procedures would have prevented this injury